

Costing out Study Results for Central Susquehanna Region Districts

School District	Per pupil spent in 2005-2006	Costing out estimate per pupil	Difference per pupil	ADM*	Total Extra spending
Selinsgrove ASD	\$8,409	\$11,018	\$2,610	2806	\$7,323,660
Berwick	\$8,707	\$11,674	\$2,966	3507	\$10,401,762
Central Columbia	\$7,738	\$10,762	\$3,024	2250	\$6,804,000
Danville	\$9,348	\$11,226	\$1,878	2622	\$4,924,116
Lewisburg	\$9,242	\$11,538	\$2,297	1858	\$4,267,826
Line Mountain	\$9,322	\$11,580	\$2,258	1292	\$2,917,336
MiddWest	\$7,570	\$10,806	\$3,236	2430	\$7,863,480
Mifflinburg	\$7,961	\$11,095	\$3,134	2400	\$7,521,600
Milton	\$8,823	\$11,903	\$3,079	2319	\$7,140,201
Shamokin	\$8,671	\$12,391	\$3,720	2592	\$9,642,240
Shikellamy	\$8,329	\$11,240	\$2,910	3227	\$9,390,570
Warrior Run	\$8,129	\$11,381	\$3,252	1781	\$5,791,812
Southern Columbia	\$7,777	\$11,045	\$3,268	1517	\$4,957,556
MT Carmel	\$7,230	\$11,458	\$4,228	1772	\$7,492,016
Region cost total:					\$96,438,175

Source: "Costing Out the Resources Needed to Meet Pennsylvania's Public Education Goal" by Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates, Inc. 2007

The task was to determine the basic cost per student necessary to provide all students with a quality education that allows them to meet state academic standards and assessments. This includes special ed, English language learners, and gifted students.

It does not include spending for buildings, debt service, food service or transportation.

*ADM – Average Daily Membership – number of students in the district for the school year.

The study determined the cost was \$12,057 per student, on average in PA. To achieve that level of funding requires raising current education funding of \$17 billion to about \$22 billion

They found 27 school districts (501 school districts in PA) in the state met or exceeded their identified base cost. Twenty of those districts are in the highest wealth quintile and their tax effort is 10 percent below the state average.¹

¹ "Costing Out the Resources Needed to Meet Pennsylvania's Public Education Goal" by Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates, Inc. 2007 page 54.

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"No existing research demonstrates a straightforward relationship between how much is spent to provide education services and performance." That's not rhetoric; that's a disclaimer from a costing-out consultant's own reports.

"It's true," says Eric Hanushek, a school finance economist at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. "Decades of research show that while more money can make a difference, there's no way to link specific spending with what students will achieve."²

² The Alchemy of "Costing Out" an Adequate Education, Eric A. Hanushek Stanford University, September 14, 2006